

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of: Hanna Maria SMOLAREK, Gheorghe Emil DUTA and  
David LIWSZYC

Serial No.: 10/563,039 Group Art Unit: 3677

Filed: June 19, 2006 Examiner: David C. Reese

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For: ELASTIC JOINT ELEMENT AND FASTENER ASSEMBLY  
INCORPORATING THE SAME

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I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted via EFS to the  
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Janet M. Stevens

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicants wish to amend the subject application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 14 of this paper.